



The Blueprint Board

The scenario... It is 8:45 am on Monday. The crew is all set with its morning assignments and you are trying to clear some of the mounds of paperwork off your desk in order to get ready for your 10:00 a.m. meeting with your green chairman, Mr. Jones. After all, it is an important meeting, your first chance to sell him on the \$900,000 irrigation system rebuild.

"What was that? Mr. Jones is here? Here, now?" "Oh gosh that's right, it was 9:00 a.m. not 10:00 a.m." Panic sets in, your desk has piles of paperwork on it, "Where can I show him the blueprints?"

Sound familiar, or at least possible? Well, there is an answer. One of my previous employers, Marsh Benson, golf course superintendent at Augusta National, is an extremely organized individual and this "Super Tip" is an idea that I adapted from him. The idea is a blueprint board that folds down off the wall and can be used for displaying prints or working on them.

The blueprint board is attached to the wall so it takes up no extra space. It can be completed for less than \$50 and in a few short hours. The blueprint board attached to the wall in my office is the handiwork of my shop and equipment manager, Kim Ellis.

Measurements/Specifications;

- * The blueprint board itself is a 41 by 37-inch piece of "cabinet grade" plywood that is 1/2 inch thick.
- * The board that it is hinged to, that is attached to the wall, is 41 by 3.5 inches (a 1x4)
- * The legs that are attached with hinges to the back of the board measure 13.5-inch 1x4s. The length of the legs can vary dependent upon the height of the desk or table that the board will fold down on to.
- * The hinges that attach the legs to the board, as well as the blueprint board to the support board are all 3 by 2 inches.
- * At the top of the board (or bottom if the board is in use) is a 1-inch piece of molding mounted to the blueprint board in order to keep the plans from sliding off when in use.
- * To secure the blueprint board to the wall when it is not in use, a small piece of 1-inch wood is mounted to the wall and a sliding barrel bolt is screwed into the piece of wood.
- * Once all of the boards have been cut, sanded and stained, if so desired, it is ready to be mounted. We feel the easiest way to install the blueprint board is to leave the large, "fold down" piece unattached to the board that is secured to the wall. After a location is chosen above a desk, filing cabinet or similar item you are ready to proceed.
- * With a level and measuring tape, place the 41 by 3.5-inch support board to the correct place on the wall. Attach this board with screws directly into the studs or into hollow wall anchors.
- * After the board is secured, the plywood can be attached to it with the hinges. It would be best to have two people perform this task.
- * Finally, the small board that you will mount the barrel bolt on to can be secured to the wall above the blueprint board.

The blueprint board is an inexpensive, unobtrusive tool that can assist the golf course superintendent in maintaining an organized professional looking office. Money is not a limiting factor with this tool so all levels of budgets can benefit. Good luck, and by the way if the Mr. Jones scenario has ever happened to you, you may want to also work on your appointment organizational skills!

Darren J. Davis
Golf Course Superintendent
Olde Florida Golf Club



The blueprint board folded up flat against wall in storage position.



The blueprint board extended down in use. Photo by Darren Davis.